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Identical letters dated 5 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 June 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 23 to 31 May 2000 they carried out 214 sorties, 78 of them from Saudi Arabia, 44 from Kuwait and 92 from Turkey. He goes on to affirm Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage done by such aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 214 sorties in the period from 23 to 31 May 2000, 78 of them from Saudi Arabia, 44 from Kuwait and 92 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 92 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1015 hours on 23 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Rawanduz and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1000 hours on 28 May 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Aqrah, Sinjar, Rawanduz and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1240 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1015 hours on 29 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Sinjar and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1317 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1015 hours on 30 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah and Irbil areas. The aircraft attacked an area in Ninawa Governorate, wounding one civilian. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1040 hours on 31 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Aqrah and Irbil areas. The aircraft released eight heat flares in the Badriyah and

Fayidah areas north of Mosul. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 122 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1755 hours on 25 May 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Amarah, Najaf, Qal`at Sukkar, Nukhayb and Karbala' areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1905 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1255 hours on 26 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Qurnah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1135 hours on 27 May 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Nukhayb, Qal`at Sukkar, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah and Rifa`i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1100 hours on 28 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Samawah, Qal`at Sukkar, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Ashbajah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Basrah, Qurnah and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0935 hours on 29 May 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Rifa`i, Afak, Basrah, Qurnah and Salman areas.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1035 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0720 hours on 30 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Samawah, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Basrah, Afak, Taqtaqanah, Jalibah, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, urges the Security Council to perform the duties assigned to it, as exemplified by the maintenance of international peace and security, by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, bring to a definitive end and refrain from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq